

CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE



For Immediate Release
Thursday, December 11, 2008

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Cleveland Police Awards Recognition Ceremony

Police Officers and citizens to be honored at 6 p.m. today in Rotunda at City Hall

CLEVELAND - Today, Mayor Frank G. Jackson, Safety Director Martin L. Flask and Police Chief Michael McGrath will recognize and honor the following Cleveland Police Officers and citizens for their contributions to making the City of Cleveland a safer and better place.

POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The **Police Officer of the Year** Award is presented to a sworn member of the Cleveland Division of Police who has demonstrated an outstanding devotion to duty and uniquely performed his or her job duties to the highest degree beyond that established by one's peers.

Badge	Name	Assignment	Date of Incident
1981	Todd Staimpel	District 1	05-08-2007

MEDAL OF HONOR

The **Medal of Honor** is the highest award presented to a Cleveland Police Officer for acts of personal bravery performed beyond the call of duty and involving an incontestable risk of life.

Badge	Name	Assignment	Date Of Incident
1981	Todd Staimpel	District 1	05-08-2007
11	Jose Delgado	SWAT Unit	12-29-2007
1799	Eric Poole	District 4	09-10-2008

MEDAL OF HEROISM

The **Medal of Heroism** is awarded to police officers who demonstrate extraordinary bravery or act in an exemplary and extraordinary manner while at substantial risk of personal harm.

Badge	Name	Assignment	Date of Incident
461	Robert Goines	District 4	02-29-2008
58	Alan Buford	District 5	02-13-2008
1178	Andrew Crytzer	District 5	02-13-2008
444	Robbie Durbin	District 5	02-13-2008
1654	Vincent Lucarelli	District 5	02-13-2008
1109	Reginald Smith	District 5	02-13-2008
1726	Robert Cupach	District 3	01-01-2008
1543	Daniel Dickens	District 4	01-01-2008
2117	Thomas Smith	District 4	01-01-2008
2424	Wade Westerfield	District 4	01-01-2008
2290	James Williams	District 4	10-10-2007
Sergeant	Richard Maruniak	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
139	Anthony Desciscio	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
1172	Wilmer Gandarilla	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
1	James Gnew	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
122	Russell Parker	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
2282	Francisco Sanchez	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
1951	Jason Warrington	SWAT Unit	05-28-2008
2287	Morris Sanders	District 5	08-29-2008
1687	William Vanverth	District 1	05-08-2007

2046	Robert Miles	District 1	05-08-2007
661	Stanley Hart	District 1	07-28-2008
759	Arthur Fessler	District 1	07-28-2008

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

The **Distinguished Service Medal** is awarded to police officers who demonstrate a high degree of personal initiative, perform substantially beyond normal requirements in an exemplary manner, contribute significantly to the achievement of law enforcement goals or consistently perform at the highest levels of law enforcement excellence as indicated by a special faithfulness to duty.

Badge	Name	Assignment	Date of Incident
Lieutenant	Lenard Poss	District 4	02-29-2008
Lieutenant	Reinhold Kauntz	District 5	02-29-2008
Sergeant	Timothy Cannon	District 4	02-29-2008
2489	Steven Kinan	District 4	02-29-2008
1036	Carmen Hall	District 4	02-29-2008
1235	Larry Russell	District 4	02-29-2008
381	Phillip Habeeb	District 4	02-29-2008
343	Arthur Echols	Homicide Unit	02-29-2008
2310	Vasile Nan	District 4	02-29-2008
1029	Westley Woods	District 4	02-29-2008
1684	Jeffrey Sampson	Homicide Unit	09-03-2008
Sergeant	Jerrold Zarlenga	Traffic Unit	08-20-2008
47	Christopher Mobley	District 5	08-15-2008
Sergeant	David Carroll	Building Security Unit	05-03-2008
894	Walter Mruk	Personnel Unit	2008
2362	Jeffrey Yasenchack	District 4	06-17-2008
1374	Robert McKay	District 4	06-17-2008
1505	Daniel David	District 4	06-17-2008
2380	Robert Sweany	District 4	06-17-2008

SPECIAL COMMENDATION AWARD

The **Special Commendation Award** is presented to those police officers who distinguish themselves by performing a valuable police service which demonstrates special diligence or perseverance.

Badge	Name	Assignment	Date of Incident
1916	David DiMaria	District 4	02-29-2008
1536	Willie Peterson	District 4	02-29-2008

CITIZENS AWARD PLAQUE

The Citizen Award Plaque is awarded to civilians who distinguish themselves through the performance of a heroic act involving great personal risk.

Name	Location	Date Of Incident
Steve Poggi	District 3	02-09-2008
Nathan Johnson	District 3	02-09-2008
Margaret Coley	District 3	01-28-2008
Tina Bellino	District 2	07-09-2008
Delanzo Jacobs	District 3	03-31-2008
Anthony Timko Sr.	District 2	06-10-2008

CHIEF'S OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD

Rank/Badge	Name	Assignment
Sergeant	Richard Maruniak	SWAT Unit
53	Ricky Sheppard	SWAT Unit
Sergeant	Patricia Coleman	District 2
2109	William Mazur	District 4
882	Lawrence Smith	District 2
1123	Brian Stockwell	District 4
1859	Antonio Taylor	District 4
2495	Frank Woyma	District 4
2362	Jeffrey Yasenchack	District 4

MILITARY RECOGNITION CERTIFICATES

By answering the call to duty in the United States Armed Forces you made personal and professional sacrifices, and overcame many burdens. You accepted the challenging responsibility of protecting the freedoms we oftentimes take for granted as a society. Your dedication is honorable and praiseworthy.

1175	Daniel Nuti	Army/National Guard	Desert Storm
626	Stephanie Hunter	Navy	Desert Storm
Lieutenant	John Bocchicchio	Army	Vietnam
Sergeant	Richard Maruniak	Army	Vietnam
1678	Christopher Harper	Army/National Guard	Desert Storm
1594	Michael Dupont	Air Force	Vietnam
Sergeant	James Dzuiba	Army	Desert Storm
106	Frederick Brumfield	Marine Corps	Grenada
1028	George Kirby	Marine Corps	Vietnam/Lebanon/ Grenada
Lieutenant	Michael Dodge	Army Reserve	Grenada
333	Erwin Eberhardt	Army	Enduring Freedom
Sergeant	Ronald Ross	Army	Desert Storm
1889	Alvin White	Army	Vietnam
Sergeant	Leslie Hahn	Army	Grenada
1134	James McNamee	Navy	Grenada
1384	Henry Jackson	Army	Vietnam
1370	Cesar Herrera	Marine Corps	Desert Storm
1900	Gofrido Garcia	Navy	Desert Storm
397	Samuel Byrd	Army	Vietnam
830	Arthur King	Navy	Vietnam
1352	Robert Kubiak	Army/National Guard	Desert Storm
1219	Chris Hamrick	Navy	Desert Storm
1060	Kenneth Brown	Navy	Desert Storm
1371	Milton Lawson	Army	Vietnam
1733	Daniel Royko	Air Force	Desert Storm
1122	Christopher Evans	Marine Corps	Desert Storm
1156	William Feador	Navy/Army	Desert Storm/

1735	Martin Rudin	Marine Corps	Panama
Lieutenant	William Mone	Army	Desert Storm
1187	Michael Hale	Marine Corps	Vietnam
			Desert Storm

Award Scenarios

Citizen Plaque - Nathan Johnson and Steve Poggi

On the rainy morning of February 09, 2008, Mr. Nathan Johnson and Mr. Steve Poggi were driving their vehicles when they observed another vehicle leave the roadway and plunge into Doan Creek. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Poggi stopped their vehicles and went to investigate. They observed a partially submerged sedan with three trapped occupants. Disregarding their own safety, they entered the cold, rushing waters where they extricated the trapped victims and brought them to safety.

Citizen Plaque - Delanzo Jacobs

In the early morning hours of March 31, 2008, Mr. Delanzo Jacobs was in his vehicle waiting at a red light when he observed a Cleveland police car enter the intersection where it was struck by another vehicle. The force of the collision caused that other vehicle to strike Mr. Jacobs' car. The police vehicle careened into a metal pole causing heavy damage to the vehicle. Mr. Jacobs, disregarding any potential injury to himself or damage to his personal car, immediately rushed to the officers' aid whereupon he observed that both officers appeared to be unconscious. Mr. Jacobs took the radio dispatch microphone that one of the unconscious officers was still clutching in her hand and used it to call for assistance. Mr. Jacobs' unselfish actions expedited the medical assistance that these two seriously injured officers immediately required.

Citizen Plaque - Margaret Coley

On June 28, 2008, Ms. Margaret Coley observed a male walking past her home stumble and fall. Being that Ms. Coley had just recently received her nursing degree, she quickly came to the male's aid. Ms. Coley soon determined that the male had been stabbed in the chest. After ensuring that medical help was on the way, Ms. Coley began to render first aid to the victim. It was later determined that the male was stabbed in the heart but that due to Ms. Coley's quick assistance the male was able to make a full recovery.

Citizen Plaque - Tina Bellino

On July 09, 2008, Ms. Tina Bellino was in her vehicle when she observed a person fleeing from a bank with red dye smoke coming from his pants. Ms. Bellino then noticed what she later realized was an off-duty Cleveland police officer on foot chasing after the bank robbery suspect. Without regard for her own personal safety and showing incredible initiative, Ms. Bellino invited the officer into her vehicle to chase after the suspect. As a result of her assistance in the pursuit, the off-duty officer was able to confront the suspected bank robber as he was entering his getaway vehicle. Unfortunately, the suspect's actions at his vehicle led the officer to believe that his life and the life of his Good Samaritan were in danger thereby forcing the officer to employ deadly force against the suspect, killing the suspect.

Anthony Timko Sr. – Citizen Plaque

On the morning of June 10, 2008, Mr. Anthony Timko Sr. was assigned as a school crossing guard assisting children going to school. It had rained heavily that morning causing quite a bit of high water on the roads. Despite the poor weather conditions that morning, Mr. Timko went about his duties protecting the children as they crossed the street. Mr. Timko had just stepped on to the street to assist and shield a group of children to cross when he was struck by an approaching vehicle. Mr. Timko's injuries required a hospital confinement.

**Chief's Outstanding Unit Award -
Sergeant Richard Maruniak and Officer Ricky Sheppard**

The Division of Police Training Section in conjunction with the SWAT Unit initiated a new course of instruction called Rapid Action Immediate Deployment (RAID) training. The purpose of the RAID training is to provide an immediate and substantive response to an active shooter as quickly as possible without waiting for a more specialized police response. These officers, in a collaborative effort, presented a training program of such high quality that the RAID training program is widely credited as having had a significant impact on the level and quality of response when later that year a gunman entered a Cleveland school and began firing on students and teachers. The response of the officers who had the RAID training was instrumental in mitigating the harm to innocent persons and bringing the horrible episode to a quick conclusion.

**Chief's Outstanding Unit Award -
Sergeant Patricia Coleman, and Officers William Mazur, Lawrence
Smith, Brian Stockwell, Antonio Taylor, Frank Woyma, and Jeffrey
Yasenchack.**

In 2007, the **Third District Community Services Unit Squad Two**, was responsible for 382 arrests for offenses like Violations of State Drug Laws, Carrying Concealed Weapons, and Trademark Counterfeiting. In addition, this unit was responsible for the seizure or recovery of 16 kilos of cocaine, 8 kilos of marijuana, 377 ecstasy pills, 214 packs of heroin, 44 grams of PCP, 16 vehicles, 251 cell phones, 23 drug scales, 755 pirated DVDs, 16 loaded firearms, and \$283,913 in cash. These statistics are in addition to the numerous arrests for drug abuse instruments, as well as traffic and curfew citations. This same unit was also selected as the Chief's Outstanding Unit in a prior year. However, they followed up that year's success by doubling and tripling the prior year's statistics.

Officer James Williams - Medal Heroism

On October 10, 2007, Patrol Officer James Williams and a large number of Cleveland police officers responded to multiple reports of shots fired and multiple gunshot victims at a Cleveland high school where classes were in session. There were hundreds of persons in the area and much confusion. Reports indicated that an active shooter or shooters had entered the school and shot a number of students and teachers. Without hesitation and at great peril to themselves, Officer Williams and the others methodically went about calming the students and staff, devising a plan, establishing various perimeters, dividing into teams and responsibilities, and systematically going through the entire school building rescuing trapped victims and searching for the gunman or gunmen. Even after the discovery of the body of the lone gunman who had taken his own life, it was a long tense period of time before it was determined that the area was safe, victims were accounted for and order was restored.

Medal of Honor - Officer Jose Delgado

On the evening of December 29, 2007, Officer Jose Delgado was off-duty and was about to enter a convenience store when he observed a person wearing a hooded sweatshirt and mask pointing a semi-automatic handgun at persons inside the store. As Officer Delgado tactically exited the store he also observed some patrons lying on the floor. Officer Delgado took cover behind a parked auto and immediately called police for assistance. While waiting for back-up, the suspect exited the store while still holding his gun. Officer Delgado identified himself as a police officer and ordered the suspect to drop his weapon. The suspect ignored Officer Delgado's commands and instead raised his weapon. Fearing for his safety and that of innocent civilians, Officer Delgado fired at the suspect, wounding him. Officer Delgado then immediately secured the suspect and waited for back-up to arrive.

**Distinguished Service Medal - Officers Arthur Echols, Jeffrey Weaver,
Lawrence Dolesch, Antonio Taylor, Earl Morris, and Mark Blaine**

On August 11, 2008, these officers monitored a radio broadcast of two males who had just robbed a person walking down the street. These officers quickly converged on the scene. A short while later, one of the armed suspects was spotted and a lengthy foot chase ensued. Due to the quick diligence and teamwork of these officers, the armed suspect was captured as well as the second suspect. The victim's belongings were recovered along with a loaded revolver belonging to one of the suspects. It was later determined that these same two males may have been involved in several similar armed robberies in the neighborhood.

**Medal Heroism - Officers Alan Buford, Andrew Crytzer, Robbie
Durbin, Vincent Lucarelli, and Reginald Smith**

In the late evening hours of February 13, 2008, these officers responded to a house fire in progress with children trapped inside. Arriving upon the scene, they observed that the home was being engulfed in fire and that there was great danger for any would-be rescuer. These officers using incredible teamwork were able to locate a ladder which they placed up against the burning home. By placing themselves significantly in harm's way, they were able to rescue two juveniles from the upper floor, one of whom was handicapped.

Medal of Heroism - Robert Goines

**Distinguished Service Medal - Lieutenants Lenard Poss and Reinhold
Kauntz, Sergeant Timothy Cannon, and Officers Steven Kinas, Carmen
Hall, Larry Russell, Phillip Habeeb, Arthur Echols, Vasile Nan, and
Westley Woods**

Special Commendation Award - Officers David DiMaria and Willie Peterson

On February 29, 2008, Patrol Officer Robert Goines and his partner, Patrol Officer Derek Owens, were engaged in routine neighborhood patrol in response to citizen complaints of ongoing criminal activity. On this evening, Officers Goines and Owens stopped to investigate a group of young males who were drinking alcohol and congregating on a vacant property. In the course of investigating this activity, the males began to flee on foot. As Officer Owens began to chase after the males, one of the young males turned, produced a firearm and shot at Officer Owens striking him just below his ballistic vest. Officer Goines observed the event and returned fire on the fleeing male. Officer Goines quickly broadcast a call for assistance; asking for an ambulance, giving a suspect description, and providing comfort and aid to his partner. However, despite the heroic efforts of all involved, Officer Owens succumbed to his injuries later that evening. In the immediate aftermath, many police officers extended themselves well beyond what would be required of them in their normal course of duties, whether by rendering immediate aid and assistance, or relentless and exhaustive investigative follow-up, or solid leadership and tireless coordination of efforts. These officers combined their skills and dedication to duty and to each other to bring to justice the killer of their brother, Patrol Officer Derek Owens.

Detective Jeffrey Sampson - Distinguished Service Medal

On September 03, 2008, Detective Jeffrey Sampson was off duty and in route to work when he observed in his rearview mirror a vehicle hit skip another vehicle and then drive past him at a high rate of speed. Detective Sampson could see that the driver of the vehicle appeared to be unconscious. Detective Sampson, having been assigned a Homicide Unit car for that day, immediately activated his emergency lights and siren and attempted to get ahead of the out of control vehicle. As Detective Sampson got in front of the other vehicle, he allowed the vehicles to touch bumpers at which point he slowly applied his brakes, bringing both vehicles to a safe stop. It was later determined that the driver of the car had a medical emergency that caused the driver to pass out. Detective Sampson's extraordinary intervention prevented a much greater tragedy.

Patrol Officer Derek Owens was recognized and posthumously awarded the **Medal of Honor** and the **Police Star** earlier in the year during Police Memorial Week.

Medal Heroism - Officers Robert Cupach, Daniel Dickens, Thomas Smith, and Wade Westerfield

In the early morning hours of January 01, 2008, these officers were involved in the investigation of a fresh armed robbery involving three suspects. Later in the shift, the suspect vehicle was located and a pursuit took place. The pursuit resulted in the vehicle being stopped and two of the suspects held at gunpoint while the third suspect fled while holding a gun in his hand. In spite of the inherent danger of searching for an armed suspect in the darkness, these officers persisted and eventually apprehended the suspect. The collaborative effort of these officers resulted in the arrest of three aggravated robbery suspects, the confiscation of two handguns, the recovery of the victims' money and the solving of several aggravated robberies in the neighborhood.

Medal Heroism - Sergeant Richard Maruniak, and Officers Anthony Desciscio, Wilmer Gandarilla, James Gnew, Russell Parker, Francisco Sanchez, and Jason Warrington.

On May 28, 2008, these members of the SWAT Unit conducted a search warrant on a suspected drug house where information indicated that there may be armed males in the house. In the process of securing the house, the SWAT members observed four males in the confines of the living room. One of the male suspects refused to comply with the orders of the SWAT team and was in fact observed to have a firearm. As the suspect reached for his firearm, several SWAT team officers began to wrestle with the suspect for the weapon. In the course of the struggle, SWAT members had to resort to the use of deadly force to end the deadly threat from the suspect. These members of the SWAT team showed great courage and restraint by diligently maintaining team discipline as events unfolded in these close quarters. A loaded .45 caliber handgun was recovered from the suspect.

Distinguished Service Medal - Patrol Officer Christopher Mobley

On August 15, 2008, Patrol Officer Christopher Mobley, working alone, observed a vehicle that was broadcast earlier as having been taken at gun point. Officer Mobley requested back-up and began to follow the suspect vehicle. Before back-up could arrive, the suspects abandoned their vehicle and fled on foot. Without hesitation, Officer Mobley gave chase and arrested one of the males. Inside the vehicle, Officer Mobley recovered a firearm that was stolen from a police officer's home two years earlier. This was the third arrest of a car thief by Officer Mobley in as many days. Working alone in the month of August, Officer Mobley responded to 57 radio assignments, completed 22 reports, issued 41 tickets for traffic infractions, 17 minor misdemeanor citations, eight misdemeanor arrests, 5 felony arrests, and effected a traffic stop that netted over one pound of marijuana and \$2,800 in cash. Officer Mobley is an exemplary out-performer who works with a special dedication and work ethic.

Medal of Honor - Officer Eric Poole

On September 10, 2008, Patrol Officer Eric Poole, working alone, assisted in the pursuit of a stolen vehicle. In the course of the pursuit, the stolen vehicle struck a utility pole, disabling the vehicle. The suspect driver continued on foot with Officer Poole still in pursuit in his vehicle. As Officer Poole caught up to the suspect, the suspect stopped near the passenger door and pointed a handgun at Officer Poole. Officer Poole ducked down and exited the vehicle to confront the suspect. The suspect came around the car and again pointed his handgun at Officer Poole. Officer Poole was forced to employ deadly force, shooting the suspect several times. Despite the fact that the suspect was down and wounded, the suspect continued to resist Officer Poole's attempts to subdue him. Officer Poole was finally able to turn the suspect over, revealing a loaded .380 automatic handgun under the suspect.

Medal Heroism -Detective Thomas Klamert

Medal of Honor - Detective Scott Moran and Cuyahoga County Deputy Sheriff Marc Bottone

On the evening of March 11, 2008, Detectives Thomas Klamert and Scott Moran, and Deputy Sheriff Marc Bottone were engaged in an undercover drug operation. A confidential informant was in the process of making a drug buy when the suspected drug dealer produced a gun and announced his intentions to rob the confidential informant. The detectives and the deputy monitored the robbery by electronic surveillance and quickly rushed to the aid of their informant. In the face of an armed gunman Detective Klamert left his cover to protect and secure the informant, Detective Moran gave chase to the suspect on foot, and Deputy Bottone followed in a vehicle. At one point the suspect turned and fired his weapon directly at Detective Moran. Deputy Bottone, upon seeing the suspect shoot at Detective Moran, placed his car in a manner to protect the detective, and then subsequently employed deadly force to neutralize the armed suspect.

Distinguished Service Medal - Sergeant Jerrold Zarlenga

On August 20, 2008, Sergeant Jerrold Zarlenga was off duty with his young son enjoying the day in a wooded park, when his day was interrupted by the screams of two females who were fleeing from a naked male that was chasing them. Sergeant Zarlenga immediately interceded, identified himself as a police officer, and gave chase to the suspect. The suspect refused to stop and ran back into the woods. Sergeant Zarlenga pursued the suspect, subdued him, and took him into custody with the assistance of a park ranger. It was later determined that the male had accosted several females that day and that he was being sought by park rangers as a suspect in several other such incidents that had occurred over a period of several months.

Medal Heroism - Patrol Officers Stanley Hart and Arthur Fessler

On July 28, 2008, Patrol Officers Stanley Hart and Arthur Fessler received a radio assignment for a male assaulting a female and threatening her with a gun. Upon their arrival, they observed the male standing in the driveway holding a handgun in each hand at waist level. These officers exited their vehicle and ordered the male to drop his weapons. Instead of complying, the male turned and walked back toward the house still containing the female that he assaulted earlier. These officers showed great restraint in not using deadly force but rather kept ordering the male to put down his weapons. At the last possible moment just before entering the house, the male stopped and laid down his weapons.

Distinguished Service Medal - Sergeant David Carroll

On May 03, 2008, Sergeant David Carroll was off-duty shopping with his wife at his neighborhood supermarket. In the store he observed a male acting suspiciously next to an elderly female and her shopping cart. Sergeant Carroll next observed the male place a small female's pocket book under his jacket and walk away from the female. For everyone's safety, Sergeant Carroll waited for the male to clear the area before speaking to the female to determine that her wallet was stolen. Sergeant Carroll directed his wife to advise the store manager of what had just occurred. Sergeant Carroll then observed the suspect run down the store aisle and out into the parking lot. Without hesitation, Sergeant Carroll began a foot pursuit of the suspect that lasted several blocks and came to involve other citizens and off duty officers. The suspect was quickly arrested and the stolen property was recovered.

Distinguished Service Medal - Patrol Officer Walter Mruk

Patrol Officer Walter Mruk, a Vietnam and Desert Storm combat veteran, has served the Cleveland Division of Police for nearly twenty years with an unselfish devotion to duty that is far beyond normal expectations. Officer Mruk's professionalism is distinguished by his extreme conscientiousness and diligence to every task he has ever been assigned. Officer Mruk's unwavering diligence and tireless dependability far exceed established norms. Officer Mruk has established a well-deserved reputation as an officer whose work

ethic is second to none. Every superior officer that has ever had the pleasure to supervise Officer Mruk speaks unequivocally of his uncommon dedication to serving others, both on and off-duty.

Medal of Heroism - Patrol Officer Morris Sanders

On August 29, 2008, Patrol Officer Morris Sanders was off duty exiting his vehicle at a business when he heard a gunshot, and saw a male running and several males fighting on the ground. Officer Sanders immediately approached the fight and observed that the males were fighting for control of a handgun. After identifying himself as a police officer, Officer Sanders was told that the male with the handgun had attempted to rob the other two males. Officer Sanders wrestled the gun away from the suspected robber, took him into custody, and kept the victims on the scene until other police officers could come to assist and sort out the circumstances. It was later learned that the handgun was stolen along with a vehicle, linking the arrested male to other crimes.

Distinguished Service Medal - Patrol Officers Jeffrey Yasenchack Robert McKay, Daniel David, Robert Sweany, Anthony Tomaro and Marvin Young

On June 17, 2008, these officers responded to a radio broadcast of two armed males having just had robbed a local diner. The males had brandished weapons and ordered all the patrons to the floor. After robbing the diner and the waitress, the suspects fled on foot into the neighborhood. These officers quickly arrived on the scene, gathered additional information, and right away began a methodical search for the armed suspects. Due to their diligence, a total of three suspects were found, including one hiding in bushes and two others found with their weapons hiding in a basement. Their quick actions lead to the recovery of all the stolen money and discarded clothing worn by the robbers, as well as the two robbers and a third suspect who acted as the lookout.

**Medal Heroism -Detective William Vanverth and
Patrol Officer Robert Miles**

Medal of Honor - Detective Todd Staimpel

Police Officer of the Year - Detective Todd Staimpel

On May 08, 2007, Detectives Todd Staimpel and William Vanverth performed a traffic stop on a vehicle operating in violation of traffic laws. The driver acted in a highly suspicious and reluctant manner as the detectives went about the business of the traffic stop. Patrol Officer Robert Miles monitored the radio broadcast and decided to go to the area to assist. Prior to his arrival Officer Miles was able to determine that the driver had a history of violence involving a firearm. Officer Miles quickly shared this information with the detectives. All the officers exercised extreme caution in attempting to get the driver to exit the vehicle and comply with their commands. The driver then re-entered his vehicle at which time Detective Vanverth shouted that the driver was holding a handgun. Detective Staimpel immediately lunged on top of the 300+ pound male and attempted to wrestle away the weapon. The much larger driver was able to point the weapon at the other officers. Despite Detective Staimpel's heroics, the larger driver was able to point the weapon at Detective Vanverth and Officer Miles who in turn both had to resort to deadly force, shooting the driver in the vehicle still containing Detective Staimpel. The wounded driver then turned his weapon toward Detective Staimpel who, despite the extremely close quarters, then also employed deadly force to end the deadly confrontation. In addition to a loaded handgun, the officers also found drugs.